

Seoul USIS Chief Defends Use Of Censored Material

By THOMAS PEPPER
[Sun Staff Correspondent]

Seoul—The United States Information Service here displays censored American magazines in its library, and has restricted the distribution of a government-sponsored research journal, *Problems of Communism*.

The local USIS director, Dr. Daniel E. Moore, defends these practices as the best to operate under the circumstances.

He says that as far as he knows, USIS has no overall policy on the problem of how local posts should cope with censorship by host governments.

For Convenience

Each country and each situation is handled on a case-by-case basis, Dr. Moore says.

Here, for example, the library at the American Cultural Center carries censored copies of *Time* and *Newsweek*.

This is strictly a matter of convenience, Dr. Moore says, permitting the library to carry the Asia editions that come to South Korea through a local distributor. They are checked and stamped by South Korean officials.

Quicker News

Because *Time* and *Newsweek* are news magazines, Dr. Moore says, "we figure it's worth getting the current copy."

Uncensored versions do come to the library from the U.S. by sea mail several weeks later, and they are available to readers, he says.

But by displaying the air mail edition first, even if it is censored, readers can get most of the magazine's current information more quickly, Dr. Moore says.

The January-February issue of *Problems of Communism*, a selected journal published by USIS and distributed free to audiences abroad, contains an article about North Korea.

When it arrived in Seoul, Dr. Moore says, the local USIS staff decided not to send it to all the

usual recipients.

"We felt it was a prudent thing to do," a staff member says, noting that under South Korea's anti-communist law, mere possession of words written by a Communist may subject a person to prosecution.

According to the masthead of *Problems of Communism* "its purpose is to provide analysis and significant background on various aspects of world communism today. Opinions expressed by contributors do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the United States government."

Issue Distributed

The journal is widely respected among Western scholars for its discussion of new trends in the Communist world, and it contains contributions by noted scholars.

Dr. Moore says the January-February issue was sent to South Korean government officials, libraries, research institutes, and individuals who have a definite research interest in North Korea. It was not sent to intellectuals who normally get a copy but who have no professional interest in North Korea, he says.

One of the two copies on the USIS library shelf was annotated as follows: "Do not lend this issue to any customer." The other copy has no special instructions.